

U. S. Assay Office
New York Oct 18th 1855

My dear Sir

Yesterday I was gratified by a perusal of your report to the Director of the Mint, in reference to my apparatus for washing sweeps, and I take the earliest opportunity to thank you for the kind and generous manner in which you have spoken of it. The report itself bears the impress of your generosity, and all who have read it are gratified by your candor and magnanimity. I am glad to find that you have recommended my apparatus to be used in the Mints of the United States, and shall be happy to assist you in the introduction of it whenever it may suit your convenience. And when you have it in use I trust you will find, that neither you or myself have exaggerated its merits.

I have also been highly gratified by a perusal of the letter from the Director of the Mint to the Superintendent of this Office, ^{also} and by the kindness he has exhibited in relation to my invention. When I visit Phil^a I shall thank him personally and for the present must request you to do so for me, and if it will not encroach too much on your kindness, I should be happy to learn if the

Director will allow me to publish such portions of his letter as relates to the apparatus (particularly) and the publication of the reports, leaving out such parts as relate to the sale of Sweeps &c. His letter is so complimentary, and being connected in such a way with this subject, that I cannot properly bring the matter before the public without it.

In the pamphlet which I am about to publish, (and which by the bye, I hope will be no discredit to myself or any officer of the Mint) I should like first to give a description of the apparatus, then my report to the Superintendent, in which I ask for permission to publish it, then the letter from the Superintendent to the Director, then the Director's answer to the Superintendent, and finally your report to the Director of the Mint.

These documents will show the importance of the invention, and also my authority for making them public, which I cannot do without full permission from the parties interested. The Superintendent of this office has given me permission to publish his letter, and the Director has given me permission to publish the reports which have been made, and as this includes your report I need your permission to publish your document which I prize so highly.

My object in suppressing any portion of the Director's letter, is only to prevent the publication

of any portion of the business of the Mint or Assay office, which is not important to my purpose, otherwise it might as well be published entire, but in either case, I should be glad to have the words "Correspondence and" inserted before the word "reports" in the last line but one. This will show that I have done nothing improperly or without permission, and I think the publication will be creditable to all.

I am sorry to feel obliged to trespass so far upon your generosity, but if you can accomplish my wishes, I have no doubt but that it will be as gratifying to you as to myself.

Very truly yours
Edward M. Kent

Prof. Jas. C. Booth
U. S. Mint
Phil^a

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Ed. N Kent.

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